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The Democratic Leader



Senate of Pennsylvania

April 20, 2017

COMMITTEES

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RE: **Modification to Order No. ID-RC-13-06**

Dear Deputy Commissioner DiMemmo:

I am writing in support of the proposed modification to Order No. ID-RC-13-06 that would help to foster a more level playing field for real health care competition in western Pennsylvania.

I am proud to represent the Bloomfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh, which is home to West Penn Hospital. Since opening in 1848, West Penn, part of Allegheny Health Network, is now a 317-bed academic medical center with all private acute-care patient rooms. The hospital has earned an international reputation for excellence and innovation in patient care, healthcare, education, and research while employing nearly 1,700 people.

Following their affiliation with Highmark, West Penn was able to successfully re-open their emergency department and also to complete a new post-partum and family waiting room in its obstetrics unit. These 33 state-of-the-art postpartum rooms were designed for a family-centered approach and complement the 15 labor and delivery rooms, three on-site operating rooms, a four-bed recovery room, six-bed triage area and an eight-bed antepartum unit. In 2016, the emergency department provided services to over 22,000 patients and there were nearly 4,100 births at West Penn.

I know that continued strategic investment in West Penn Hospital will benefit my constituents and other residents of western Pennsylvania by offering high quality care in convenient settings while also preserving family sustaining jobs. I urge you to favorably consider the requested modification.

Sincerely,

Jay Costa
Democratic Leader

43rd Senatorial District

